

Appl. No. : 09/858,118
Filed : May 15, 2001

PRIORITY

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge Applicant's priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

CLAIMS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 59-64. The Examiner rejected Claims 65-69 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,284,569 to Sheppard et al. in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,179,127 to Kato et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and the Examiner's characterization of the cited references.

In this case, to advance prosecution of the application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 65-69. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these and other claims at a future date and/or in one or more continuing patent applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 28, 2003

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